

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /075 W

----- 120874

R 091420Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7679

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS NAIROBI 1275

LONDON FOR SEITZ

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KE, SO, ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA EXCHANGE POLEMICS IN KENYA PRESS

1. ETHIOPIA AMBASSADOR TO KENYA SPARKED VERBAL BATTLE IN KENYA PRESS WHEN HE DISPLAYED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FEB. 6 A 1972 SOMALI MAP SHOWING UNREDEEMED SOMALI TERRITORIES OF DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIAN OGADEN AND NORTHEAST KENYA. HE CHARGED THAT SOMALIA REPRESENTED THREAT TO PEACE IN EASTERN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE WAS AIRING MATTER AT THIS TIME, HIS PRESS CONFERENCE CAME ONLY FEW DAYS AFTER ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED KENYA EN ROUTE HOME FROM OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH DISCUSSED FUTURE OF TFAI.

2. SOMALI AMBASSADOR COUNTERCHARGED IN FEB. 7 PRESS

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CONFERENCE THAT ETHIOPIA WAS TRYING TO DRAG KENYA

INTO SINISTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOMALIA. ECHOING
STATEMENTS BY SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, LOCAL
AMBASSADOR IMPLICATED U.S. IN ALLEGED PLANS BY FRANCE
AND ETHIOPIA TO ATTACK SOMALIA.

3. NAIROBI DAILY NATION, WHICH HAD FRONT PAGE BOTH
AMBASSADORS' PRESS CONFERENCES, CARRIED EDITORIAL
FEB. 9 DEPLORING REVIVAL OF SOMALI IRREDENTISM ISSUE
AND DISAPPROVING USE OF KENYAN MEDIA TO AIR DISPUTE.
PROBABLY REFLECTING OFFICIAL KENYAN POSITION, IT EX-
PRESSED OPPOSITION TO KENYA BECOMING INVOLVED IN
ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE.

4. NAIROBI PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN HEAVY PLAY TO TENSIONS
ON TFA-SOMALIA BORDER, BUT WITHOUT DRAWING ATTENTION
TO IMPLICATIONS FOR KENYA IN ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN
SOMALIA AND ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBOURS.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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